



## **Implementation Taskforce**

**November 9, 2015  
1:00p.m. – 2:30p.m.**

**Indiana Government Center South  
Conference Room 4+5  
Public Entrance 302 W. Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204**

### **Minutes**

#### **I. Welcome and Call to Order**

Lieutenant Governor Ellspermann called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.

Members Present: Lieutenant Governor Ellspermann, Commissioner Lubbers, Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz, Caryl Auslander, Jason Bearce, Betsy Delgado, Roger Feldhaus, Matt Fleck, Jessica Fraser, Marie Mackintosh, Ian Steff, Calvin Thomas, Lynne Weisenbach

Lieutenant Governor Ellspermann provided an update regarding dual credit policy and the credentialing requirements set forth by the Higher Learning Commission. She informed the group that Superintendent Ritz and Dr. Ken Sauer joined her in providing testimony to the Higher Learning Commission on their concern of how the new policy may affect students across the state of Indiana.

Superintendent Ritz also provided an update on the diploma recommendations that were presented to the State Board of Education. As there are still some questions regarding specific elements of those recommendations, the Department of Education will be forming taskforces to investigate various topics with the hope that they will have final recommendations to the State Board of Education in early April. She informed the taskforce that she plans to bring back information to group at the February meeting. Commissioner Lubbers added that based upon conversations with higher education officials and employers, the new recommendations include the level of rigor needed in a diploma. Now that the recommendations have been made, there can be further investigation into any potential capacity issues the recommendations may have.

#### **II. Review and Approval of October 14, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Superintendent Ritz motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Fleck seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **III. Career Counselor Workshops Update**

Amanda Culhan provided the group with an update on the counselor workshops that the Department of Education sponsored across the state. Ms. Culhan stated that the Commission for Higher Education, Department of Education, and Department of Workforce Development all provided an update on agency initiatives at each of the eight workshops. 90% of the attendees at the workshops were high school counselors. Attendees indicated they were pleased with the conference and the ability to hear from each of the agencies represented. Counselors were required to fill out the DOE annual counselor survey at the time they registered for the workshops, and the DOE hopes to have the results from those surveys compiled soon. Ms. Culhan also discussed the Career Counseling standards that are currently under revision, and she hopes to present those at the upcoming ISCA conference.

### **IV. Elevating Work-and-Learn Event**

Amy Marsh provided the group with an update on the first Career Council sponsored Elevating Work-and-Learn event. The event was well attended with over 200 participants. There eight different models of successful work-and-learn programs that were highlighted at the event in hopes that those in attendance would be able to learn and take back ideas on how to implement work-and-learn programs in their communities. Ms. Marsh indicated that there will be a stronger effort to have employer representatives in attendance at the event next year. She also discussed the potential to have a nomination process for which programs are featured.

### **V. NGA Policy Academy**

Jackie Dowd provided the group with a brief history on the Career Council's work with the National Governor's Association Policy Academy in which Indiana was one of fourteen states that were awarded grant funding to receive technical assistance and guidance on implementing many of the objectives outlined in the Career Council Strategic Plan. The National Governor's Association recently announced they are forming a new policy academy that will focus on work-and-learn strategies. The academy will be an eighteen month project with a focus on providing work-and-learn opportunities for 16-29 year olds in STEM and middle-skills occupations. Indiana will be applying to take part in the policy academy, and some potential themes that have been identified to investigate include: elevating, scaling, and monitoring programs across the state as well as engaging the employer community. Members from the National Governor's Association attended the Elevating Work-and-Learn event and it could potentially serve as a model for other states. The National Governor's Association will likely announce which states will take part in the academy in mid-December.

### **VI. Current Work-and-Learn Policy**

Peggy Wild discussed current work-and-learn policy that exists for the state. She outlined some potential barriers that may prohibit work-and-learn opportunities from being offered. Ms. Wild also discussed potential strategies that may be discussed through the work of the Work-and-Learn Policy Academy should Indiana be chosen to participate. Among these strategies is a concern about the quality and effectiveness of current programs and ways to track meaningful data. Ms. Wild was asked about the number of paid vs. non-paid work-and-learn opportunities that exist. She indicated that currently it is nearly an even split between the two.

Calvin Thomas indicated there was a local group, TeenWorks, which may be able to help students with barriers take part in work-and-learn opportunities. Betsy Delgado indicated that employers may be more willing to offer work-and-learn opportunities when there is an opportunity to provide more flexible programming that what may currently be available. Ms. Wild indicated the types of opportunities that exist is something the DOE is interested in. Commissioner Lubbers indicated that

the new diploma recommendations would position schools to be more flexible in what they could offer.

**VII. Sector Partnerships**

PJ McGrew offered the group an update on the sector partnership strategies the Department of Workforce Development is currently engaged. Mr. McGrew discussed the planning grants that are being offered through the EWIN project, and potential strategies to strengthen the state's role in fostering the development of sector partnerships. Mr. McGrew discussed lessons learned from attending the Colorado Sector Strategies Academy. Colorado has been highlighted nationally as a state that offers an opportunity to learn best practices in sector partnership development. Mr. McGrew suggested the state follow a model similar to that in Colorado while moving forward in its sector partnership work.

**VIII. Skill UP Indiana Initiative**

Mr. McGrew also provided a brief summary of the Department of Workforce Development's Skill UP Indiana Initiative which aims at encouraging the development of cross-sector regional partnerships to implement strategies to educate and train Indiana citizens for the 1 million jobs that will be available over the course of the next 10 years. The DWD received 36 preliminary proposals for its November deadline. The final proposals are due December 31<sup>st</sup>, and in early February the DWD plans to award up to \$11 million for the implementation of evidence-based strategies to "skill up" individuals across the entire talent development pipeline.

**IX. Indiana Career Council Report and Metrics**

Marie Mackintosh informed the group that the Career Council annual progress report had been submitted to the state legislature by the November deadline. Ms. Mackintosh briefly discussed the continued revision of metrics and how the Career Council can focus its efforts in measuring success toward the objectives outlined in the strategic plan.

**X. Next Steps**

The taskforce will continue to meet. The next meeting will not be scheduled until February on account of the holidays, and the joint SWIC/ICC meeting in January.